

# **LEARMONTH & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC**

**FOUNDED 1983.  
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ABN No. 22 133 588 072.**



High Street. Learmonth

# **NEWSLETTER**

## **October 2010**

**Published Quarterly**



**Above photo.**

Our newly restored **RESEARCH ROOM**, with a fantastic view of the lake, with water. Many people have come to admire the restorations and leave amazed at the transformation that has taken place. In a once dilapidated old building that was about to fall down.



**Left photo  
ARCHIVAL ROOM**

The new compactus which we received through a grant from FRRR.

This now hold many of the society's belongings ranging from Shire related information, Young Farmer's Club records, Fire Brigade, School, Map, records along with numerous photo collection, along with many other records.

People are welcome to visit this new Research Facility on the 4th Sunday of the month or by appointment by phoning the secretary, Lois Keating on 5338 4361 or 0409 023 353. email [davidandlois@ncable.net.au](mailto:davidandlois@ncable.net.au)

As we now have our new Archival Room, there has been quite a lot of sorting of the society belongings and of many donated items.

Ruth Nelson (vice president) has donated much of her late mother's personal records from the Ballarat Shire when May Nelson was the first woman President of the Ballarat Shire, amongst these belongings which Ruth is in the process of sorting, she came across a saying which her mother had written, we have gathered that she was having a bad day with the then Shire Secretary and men (not game to say who that might have been — but could guess though), she wrote the following.

**AND FOR THE SHIRE SECETERIES ETC - CONFUCIUS SAYS—**

There are nine things of which Great Nan must be mindful:

1. To see when he looks.
2. To hear when he listens.
3. To have a facial expression of gentleness.
4. To have an attitude of humility.
5. To be loyal in speech.
6. To be respectful in service.
7. To inquire when in doubt.
8. To think of the difficulties when angry.
9. To think of justice when he sees an advantage.

You blokes don't do too badly; me thinks Confucius would have been pleased with you, if not completely satisfied.

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**NOTICES FROM THE ARGUS NEWSPAPER IN CONNECTION WITH  
LEARMONTH & DISTRICTS**

**BAIRD - COUTTS.**, On the 11th April 1901, at the residence of the bride's parents, by the Rev. J. G. Stirling,. William, the second son of the late Robert Baird, La Rose, Learmonth, to Octavia, youngest daughter of John Coutts, B.A. of Callander, Maryborough.

**VALLANCE.**— On the 23rd August, 1939, at Geelong, Alexander , the dearly loved husband of Elizabeth Vallance, of 14 Charles street, Newtown, Geelong, and formerly of Learmonth, and loving father of Lylie (Mrs. D. Baird), Jim, Geo, Reg, Don and Queenie. (Interred privately, Eastern Cemetery, Geelong, on the 24th August, 1939).

**HARRISON.**— On the 20th December, 1939, at private hospital, Ballarat, Walter Gibson Harrison, of The Sisters, Addington, beloved husband of the late Elizabeth, and loving father of Ethel (Mrs Steart, Clunes), Laura (Mrs. G. A. Fraser, Learmonth), William, Tom, Eric, May, and Les. Aged 64 years.

**LANGE - FORD.**— On the 5th June, 1921, at St. Ignatius Church, Richmond, by the Rev, Father Corr, William Hugh, eldest son of Mr. And Mrs. H. Lange, of Learmonth, to Annie Agnes, youngest daughter of Mr. And Mrs. M. Small, of Napier, New Zealand

## Family of Charles Edmonston & Elizabeth Leys

Charles Edmonston(e), son of Alexander Edmonstone and Isabella Coutts, was born in 1821 in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, was baptised on 18 Dec 1821 in Crathie and Braemar, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, died on 6 May 1906 in "Lintel Grange". Addington, Victoria at age 85, and was buried on 9 May 1906 in Waubra Cemetery.



**BALLARAT COURIER - MONDAY, 7th MAY 1906  
DEATH NOTICE**

**EDMONSTON.-** On the 6th May, at Lintel Grange, Addington, Charles Edmonston, late of Minaltre, Aberdeenshire, Scotland; aged 84 years.

**BALLARAT COURIER - MONDAY, 7th MAY 1906  
FUNERAL NOTICE**

THE friends of the late Mr CHARLES EDMONSTON are respectfully requested to follow his remains to the place of interment, the Waubra Cemetery. The funeral cortege will leave his late residence Lintel Grange, Addington, on Wednesday, the 9th May, 1906, at 2 o'clock. THOS. C. BARNES, Undertaker, Learmonth.

**BALLARAT COURIER - TUESDAY, 8th MAY 1906 - OBITUARY NOTICE**

The old identities of the Learmonth and Waubra districts are gradually dropping off. The last to join the great majority is Mr Charles Edmonston, of Addington, whose demise took place at his residence, Lintel Grange, on Saturday morning, at the ripe age of 84. The deceased was a native of Aberdeenshire, and arrived in Victoria in the early days of gold discovery, and settled at Addington over 50 years ago. For a number of years he was a member of the Ballarat Shire Council as a representative of the west riding, and for a term occupied the position of president. As one of the pioneers in the district the deceased took an active interest in all public matters affecting its welfare. When the present Education Act came into operation he was one of the first five members elected on the Board of Advice in 1872, and occupied a seat on the board for a number of years. He was also one of the founders of the Presbyterian Church at Waubra, in which he always took a deep interest, and for many years was its treasurer. He leaves his widow and grown-up family of four sons and two daughters.

**Noted events in his life were:** • He immigrated. Charles departed from Glasgow, Scotland on the 20th July 1853 on board the passenger ship "Eleutheria" which was captained by James Smith, this was a ship weighing 404 tons, and heading for Melbourne, Victoria on a journey that took 11 weeks to complete, arriving in Melbourne in January 1854.

**Will & Probate: THIS IS THE LAST WILL & TESTAMENT of me - Charles Edmonston** - of Addington in the state of Victoria, farmer. I appoint The Ballarat Trustees, Executors and Agency Company Limited, whose registered office is at Camp street, Ballarat. And my son Charles Edmonston of Addington, aforesaid, farmer, Executor and Trustee of this my said Will, and who are hereinafter called my said Trustees. I declare that the said Trustee Company may execute any of the trusts and powers herein contained by its Officers. I bequeath my household furniture, piano and other chattels and effects in my dwelling house at the time of my death (other than money or securities for money) to my wife,

Elizabeth Edmonston and my son Charles Edmonston equally. I give devise and bequeath all the rest and residue of my estate and effects both real and personal of which I shall be sized possessed or entitled to at the time of death unto my said Trustees, Upon Trust, for my sons the said Charles Edmonston and Donald Bell Edmonston in equal shares as tenants in common but in charge with the payment of an annuity of, Two pounds per week to my wife, Elizabeth Edmonston, and during her life such annuity to be paid to her on the first day of every calendar month in each year, the first of such payments to be made one month after my death and subject to the right and privilege of my said wife to reside in my dwelling house with my sons, so long as she may desire to do so free of all rent and charges. And also charged with the payment of the legacy of one thousand pounds, to each of my daughters, Mary Edmonston, now Mrs McGarvie and Elizabeth Edmonston now Coutts, each of such legacies to be paid within twelve months after my death, and if not then paid to bear interest at the rate of four pounds per centum, per annum, payable half yearly until paid. And also charged with the further payment of the sum of one thousand, three hundred and thirty three pounds, six shillings and eight pence, to be paid to and divided equally between my two sons, John and David, and my said two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth upon the death of my said wife or within three years thereafter without interest. I declare that in the event of my said wife desiring to reside elsewhere, I have in my present home my said sons Charles and Donald shall provide her with a home during her life to be approved of by her in such place in this state as she may devise to reside in free of rent and all other charges. I direct that all Probate and Legacy Duty on my estate to be payable thereout. I direct that my solicitors, Messrs Sir Henry Cuthbert Morrow and Must shall be reclaimed by my trustees as solicitors to my estate. I revoke all other Wills at any time therefore made by me and declare this to be my last Will and Testament In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of November, one thousand nine hundred and five.

Signed by CHARLES EDMONSTON.—WITNESSES - Donald McQueen - Gentleman - 91 Webster street. Ballarat & James Nicholson - Farmer - Addington



Charles married **Elizabeth Leys**, daughter of **Lewis Leys** and **Margaret Symon**, on 25 Nov 1862 in Residence of Charles Edmonston. Ercildoune. Victoria. Elizabeth was born on 18 Sep 1830 in Crathie & Braemar. Aberdeenshire. Scotland, died on 17 Jul 1909 in Addington. Victoria at age 78, and was buried in Jul 1909 in Waubra Cemetery.

**Will & Probate: THIS IS THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT** of me **Elizabeth Edmonston**, of Addington, in the state of Victoria. Widow.

I appoint The Ballarat Trustees Executors & Agency Company Limited, Executor and Trustee of this my Will, and I declare that the said Company may execute any of the trusts or powers herein contained by its officers. I devise all my real estate and bequeath all my personal estate to the said Company upon the trusts following that is to say upon trust for the following purposes. I give to my brothers, James and Thomas Leys the sum of two pounds each free of legacy duty. To my grand-daughter, Elizabeth Edmonston, I give the sum of ten pounds

Free of legacy duty to be expended towards her education when she attains the age of sixteen years. I give to my daughter-in-law, Christina Edmonston all my boxes. All my personal clothing and jewellery, I give in equal shares among the said Christina Edmonston, my daughter, Mary McGarvie and my niece, Margaret Leys. The rest and residue of my estate after payment of my just debts, funeral and testamentary expenses, I give to my son Charles, and my son David, and my daughter, Mary McGarvie, and my niece, Margaret Leys in equal shares. **I revoke** all other testamentary dispositions by me at any time heretofore made **In Witness** whereof I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of January, one thousand, nine hundred and eighty.

Signed—Elizabeth Edmonston

Children from this marriage were:

**1. Stillborn Edmonston** was born in Dec 1862 in Addington. Victoria, died in Dec 1862 in Addington. Victoria, and was buried on 12 Dec 1862 in Waubra Cemetery.

**2. Stillborn Edmonston** was born in Jan 1864 in Addington. Victoria, died in Jan 1864 in Addington. Victoria, and was buried on 15 Jan 1864 in Waubra Cemetery.

**3. John Alexander Edmonston** was born in 1865 in Ercildoune. Victoria, died on 5 Apr 1947 in 3 Milroy Street, Brighton. Victoria at age 82, and was buried on 8 Apr 1947 in Springvale Crematorium. **ARGUS (MELBOURNE) NEWSPAPER - 7th APRIL 1947 - DEATH NOTICE — EDMONSTON.**- On April 5, at his residence, 3 Milroy street, Brighton, John Alexander Edmonston, beloved husband of the late Ann, loving father of Charles, Dorothy, Betty and Nancy.

**ARGUS (MELBOURNE) NEWSPAPER - 8th APRIL 1947 - FUNERAL NOTICE**

**EDMONSTON.**- The funeral of the late ALEXANDER EDMONSTON will leave his residence 3 Milroy street, Brighton, THIS DAY, at 1.15 p.m., for the Springvale Crematorium. ARMSTRONG & WHITTLE, late A.I.F. Malvern

John married **Annie Telford**, daughter of **Gideon Telford** and **Alexandrina McDonald**, on 22 Nov 1892 in Victoria. Annie was born circa 1871, died on 14 Oct 1925 in Kyneton. Victoria at age 54, and was buried in Oct 1925.

**4. Mary Edmonston** was born in 1867 in Learmonth. Victoria, died in 1967 in Geelong. Victoria at age 100, and was buried in 1967 in Waubra Cemetery.

Mary married **William McGarvie**, son of **William McGarvie** and **Charlotte Fleming**, on 28 Oct 1902 in Victoria.

William was born in 1858 in Colac. Victoria, died on 16 Apr 1922 in Camperdown. Victoria at age 64, and was buried in Apr 1922 in Camperdown Cemetery.

**5. Charles Edmonston** was born on 22 Aug 1869 in Addington. Victoria, died on 2 Aug 1960 in Ballarat. Victoria at age 90, and was buried in Aug 1960 in Waubra Cemetery.

Charles married **Margaret Leys**, daughter of **John Leys** and **Margaret Keith**, on 3 Nov 1908 in Victoria. Margaret was born in 1872 in Amherst. Victoria, died on 2 Feb 1943 in "Lintel Grange" Addington. Victoria at age 71, and was buried in Feb 1943 in Waubra Cemetery.

**ARGUS (MELBOURNE) NEWSPAPER - 4th FEBRUARY 1943 - DEATH NOTICE**

**EDMONSTON.**- On February 2, Lintel Grange, Addington, Margaret, beloved wife of Charles Edmonston, and devoted mother of Rosa, Margaret and Keith.

**6. Elizabeth Edmonston** was born in 1870 in Ercildoune. Victoria, died on 30 Oct 1954 at age 84, and was buried in Nov 1954 in Waubra Cemetery.

Elizabeth married **James Coutts**, son of **John Coutts** and **Mary Grant**, on 30 Sep 1902 in "Lintel Grange" Addington. Victoria. James was born in 1868 in Clunes. Victoria, died on 6

Dec 1937 in the Waubra. Victoria at age 69, and was buried in Dec 1937 in Waubra Cemetery.

The wedding of Miss Lizzie Edmonston, of Lintel Grange, Addington, and Mr. James Coutts, farmer, of Waubra, was solemnised on 30th September; the Rev. J. Hamilton, formerly of Learmonth, officiating. The bride was becomingly attired in pale grey voile, silk spray over underskirt of grey glacie, skirt trimmed with accordion pleated flounces and strapping's of glacie silk; bodice made with new pouched front and trimmed with ivory appliqué, and tucked chiffon vest, wreath and veil. the bridesmaid, Miss Mary Edmonston, was gowned in recede green summer tweed, bodice trimmed with ivory glacie silk and guipure, skirt tucked and trimmed with glacie; biscuit green straw hat, trimmed with roses. The bride wore the bridegroom's present of a gold muff chain, and the bridesmaid that of a gold cable bangle. The bride's gift to the bridegroom was a pair of gold sleeve-links. Mr. W. Coutts was the groomsman. The wedding breakfast followed the ceremony. The feature of the delicacies supplied by the caterer, Mr. F. Allen, of Ballarat, was the wedding cake, which was of design and stood 4 feet 8 inches high on the festive board. The holiday was spent at Melbourne. The bride travelled in a tailor-made costume of beaver white tulle, French toque of green and white tulle, moss crown, green and white roses.

**7. David Edmonston** was born in 1873 in Learmonth. Victoria, died on 5 Aug 1949 in 46 Darling Road. East Malvern. Victoria at age 76, and was buried on 8 Aug 1949 in Springvale Crematorium.

David married **Christina May Orr**, daughter of **James Orr** and **Christina Dunnett**, in 897 in Victoria. Christina was born in 1879 in Smeaton. Victoria, died in Jun 1956 at age 77, and was buried on 8 Jun 1956 in Springvale Crematorium.

**ARGUS (MELBOURNE) NEWSPAPER - 10th AUGUST 1949 - DEATH NOTICES**

**EDMONSTON.-** On August 5, David of 46 Darling road, East Malvern, late of Ballan, beloved husband of Christina, loving father of Ruby (Mrs. G. Sutherland), Gwen (Mrs. G. Cowan), Arch and Beth (Mrs H. Berg).

**EDMONSTON.-** On August 5, David, beloved husband of Christina, loved poppa of Tanith, Beth, Lynne, John, Richard and Gaye. Aged 76 years. - At Rest.

**ARGUS (MELBOURNE) NEWSPAPER - 6th AUGUST 1949 - FUNERAL NOTICE**

**EDMONSTON.-** The funeral of the late MR. DAVID EDMONSTON will leave the chapel of B. Matthew Pty Ltd., 102 Toorak road, South Yarra, on MONDAY (August 8), at 1.30 p.m., for the Springvale Crematorium. B. MATTHEWS PTY LTD.

**8. Donald Bell Edmonston** was born on 11 Mar 1876 in Learmonth. Victoria, was baptised on 13 Jun 1876, and died in 1959 in Ballarat. Victoria at age 83.

Donald married **Minna Rosa Collett Shoppee**, daughter of **Charles Collett Shoppee** and **Victoria Pope**, on 3 Aug 1905 in Victoria. Minna died in 1934 in Waubra. Victoria.



The Edmonston family continue to reside at "Lintel Grange", Addington where five generations of this family have lived since it was built. Charles Edmonston had a residence at Addington when he married Elizabeth Leys, as to whether he had already built his massive 11 roomed home, no one is sure of.

The coat of arms on the left, covers the various spellings of the Edmonston surname, some other spellings are, Edmonson, Edemson, Edimson, Edminston, Edmonson, Edmiston, Edmeston, Edmondon and many more.

Compiled by Lois Keating — Secretary.

LEARMONTH & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

**Meetings:** Every third Tuesday of the month. 8pm

**Where:** The Old Shire Hall  
High Street, Learmonth.

**Time:** 8 pm

**2010 Dates**

16th February

16th March

20th April

18th May

15th June

Friday 16th July — AGM Learmonth Bowling Club

17th August

21st September

19th October

16th November. Ladies please bring a plate.

No meeting in December or January

**The society is now open on the 4th  
Sunday of every month except December &  
January, or by appointment,  
phone the secretary below.**

**Membership**

Single \$15.00 — Family \$20.00

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2009\10**

**President:** Desley Beechey. Ph 5343 2318

**Vice President:** Ruth Nelson.

**Secretary:** Lois Keating. Ph 5338 4361

9 Langstaffe Drive. Wendouree. 3355

or email [davidandlois@ncable.net.au](mailto:davidandlois@ncable.net.au)

**Treasurer:** David Spenceley. Ph 5338 4361 or 0417 539247 email  
[david252@ncable.net.au](mailto:david252@ncable.net.au)

**Research:** Bill Loader Ph 5334 6330 or  
Claudette Crick. Ph 5343 2302

The Learmonth & District Historical Society would  
sincerely like to thank the office of Joe Helper, MLA, for the printing of  
this newsletter.